

***Amendments to the Claims***

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application.

1. (Currently amended) A viewing management method for managing the viewing of a content recorded on an information recording medium readable with a prescribed reproduction device, said method comprising:

presenting an acquisition code prerecorded on said information recording medium to a viewer desiring to view a viewing management target content;

receiving a password acquired by the viewer from a server computer based on the acquisition code; and

starting the reproduction of said viewing management target content via an authentication process based on the password,

wherein a password management table associating said password with said acquisition code is ~~recorded~~ prerecorded on said information recording medium, and

the step of presenting the acquisition code includes, each time a content reproduction request is received from the viewer:

    said prescribed reproduction device generating a random number based on  
~~presents an acquisition code corresponding to a random number generated according to a~~  
prescribed random function; and

    said prescribed reproduction device selecting and presenting an  
    acquisition code corresponding to the generated random number from the password  
    management table.

2. (Original) A viewing management method according to claim 1, wherein, when said viewer acquires the password from said server computer, a viewing fee of said viewing management target content is charged to said viewer.

3. (Currently amended) A viewing management method for managing the viewing of a content recorded on an information recording medium readable with a prescribed reproduction device, comprising:

    a step of said prescribed reproduction device starting to read said information recording medium;

    a step of said prescribed reproduction device presenting a prescribed acquisition code to a viewer, and urging the viewer to input a prescribed password;

    a step of a prescribed server computer accessed by an information terminal device of said viewer urging the viewer to input the prescribed acquisition code;

    a step of said prescribed server computer presenting a password corresponding to said prescribed acquisition code to said viewer upon receiving said prescribed acquisition code from the information terminal device of said viewer;

    a step of said prescribed reproduction device performing, upon receiving a prescribed password from said viewer, authentication based on the prescribed password; and

    a step of said prescribed reproduction device starting the reproduction of the content recorded on said information recording medium when it judges that the prescribed password is valid as a result of said authentication,

wherein a password management table associating said password with said acquisition code is recorded on said information recording medium, and said prescribed reproduction device presents an acquisition code corresponding to a random number generated according to a prescribed random function.

4. Cancelled.

5. (Previously presented) A viewing management method according to claim 3, wherein said server computer comprises a viewing management database containing a table corresponding to said password management table, and

wherein a prescribed password corresponding to the prescribed acquisition code received from the information terminal device of said viewer is specified by referring to said viewing management database, and the prescribed password is presented to said viewer.

6. (Previously presented) A viewing management method according to any one of claims 3 or 5, wherein position information for the server is recorded on said information recording medium, and

said prescribed reproduction device presents said prescribed acquisition code together with said prescribed position information.

7. (Previously presented) A viewing management method according to claim 3, wherein said viewing management method further comprises a step of urging said viewer to select a viewing management target content, and

when said viewing management target content is selected, the prescribed acquisition code corresponding to said selected viewing management target content is presented.

8. (Previously presented) A system for reading an information recording medium with a prescribed reproduction device, the system comprising:

a prescribed reproduction device; and

an information recording medium having recorded thereon a viewing management target content, a prescribed password management table and prescribed control information,

wherein in said prescribed password management table, a prescribed password is associated with a prescribed acquisition code, and

wherein said prescribed control information contains a control program for said prescribed reproduction device to perform a plurality of functions, the functions comprising:

presenting a prescribed acquisition code corresponding to a random number generated according to a prescribed random function to said viewer and urging said viewer to input a prescribed password associated with said presented prescribed acquisition code in said prescribed password management table,

performing authentication of said input prescribed password when said viewer inputs said prescribed password, and  
reproducing said viewing management target content according to the result of said authentication.